

F.Y.I.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

FEDERAL EXTENDED UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS IN EFFECT FOR IDAHO

On March 9, Governor Kempthorne signed an agreement allowing Idaho claimants to apply for Temporary Emergency Unemployment Compensation (TEUC) as part of the Economic Stimulus Package. The program provides federal funding to pay up to 13 weeks of TEUC benefits to qualified workers who filed for unemployment insurance on March 11, 2001 or later, who collected all of the regular benefits to which they were entitled, and who currently are unemployed. Benefits under this program are payable to individuals for periods of unemployment occurring after March 10, 2002. The TEUC benefit program will run through December 28, 2002.

This program offers vital income for many unemployed Idaho workers who need to provide for their families while they continue to seek new jobs. The additional benefits will be funded 100 per cent by the federal government. Approximately 19,500 Idaho claimants may be eligible for as much as \$30.5 million in TEUC benefits through the end of this year. This bill will bring relief to thousands of Idaho workers who are struggling to get back into employment, as well as stabilize the economies of areas hit by the recent

economic downturn. Through the week ending April 6, 2002, Idaho had processed 4,577 initial claims, compensated 9,926 weeks, and paid \$2,264,273 in TEUC benefits to unemployed Idahoans.

The last time a 100 percent federally funded additional benefit program, Emergency Unemployment Compensation (EUC), was initiated in Idaho it ran from November of 1991 through June of 1993. More than \$54,000,000 in benefits was paid to Idaho claimants during this time at no additional cost to our trust fund.

IDAHO CONTINUED CLAIMS

Unemployment Insurance in Idaho is embracing the age and ease of the Internet! Internet Continued Claim (ICC) is simple and very accessible. Idaho unemployment insurance claimants now have the option to file their weekly claim for benefits using one of three methods: (1) phone using Tel-A-Claim (208) 334-4700, (2) Internet using ICC at <http://www.idahoworks.state.id.us/> (click on "weekly Continued Claim Report) or (3) mail using Continued Claim Card. Hundreds of unemployed claimants may now avoid long distance phone charges by filing through the Internet, rather than calling the Tel-A-Claim system.

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and assisted care facilities. As the population continues to age, the demand for alternative housing also will continue to increase.

Government

Total *Government* during February 2002 showed a large increase from January. Nearly 3,100 jobs were created month-over-month bringing the number of jobs to 113,500. This increase is largely found in *Government – Education*.

State Government – Education

The *State Government-Education* sector showed a 7.3 percent increase in the number of jobs from January to February 2002 or an additional 14,500 jobs. The majority of these jobs are not new; they represent college professors and students returning to work after the holiday vacation. This is evident by the large month-over-month increase of 13.8 percent. However, the year-over-year increase was only 1.4 percent.

Local Government – Education

A significant increase in the number of jobs in *Local Government – Education* occurred in February with a 2.5

percent increase, or 1,000 jobs, bringing the total number of jobs in February to 41,000 in this sector. The year-over-year change mirrored the month-over-month change—a 2.5 percent, or 1,000 jobs, increase. Frequently, additional support staff is hired at the beginning of a new semester.

The growth in both of these educational sectors will diminish over the year as a result of state budget shortfalls. All public schools will be reducing their budgets by 10 percent, which will be reflected in the number of jobs. Some jobs will be lost and some jobs that are currently vacant will not be filled.

SUMMARY

Overall, Idaho's *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* increased slightly in February 2002 from January and February 2001. The immediate outlook is for the same—very slow growth.

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